

Application No. 10/549,429
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laterally across the center in a lower portion of the body portion adjacent to the bottom portion of said melting cylinder so that the bottom surface of said cylindrical metallic raw material is partially supported.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a heating means is provided within said auxiliary heating member and the center portion of said cylindrical metallic raw material is directly heated from a bottom surface thereof by contact between said auxiliary heating member and the bottom surface of said cylindrical metallic raw material.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to any one of claims ~~1, 3 to 6 and 10 to 12~~^{1 and 3 to 6}, wherein said metallic raw material is made of a low melting metal alloy selected from the group consisting of:

a magnesium alloy, and
an aluminum alloy.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said metallic raw material is composed of a magnesium alloy exhibiting thixotropic properties at a temperature in a solid- liquid coexisting temperature range.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 7,